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HOW ARE STAFF COMPENSATED FOR J-TERM TEACHING?

By TIFFANY LI
Staff Writer

Middlebury staff members who are teaching J-Term courses this year will receive a bonus of $1,000 in addition to their regular hourly wage or salary. The college does not guarantee this bonus will be paid to staff teaching J-Term courses each winter, as it depends on annual budget restrictions.

"This is a practice, not a policy," Caitlin Goss, vice president for Human Resources and chief people officer, wrote in an email to The Campus. "Every year we have certain budget constraints. When we're able to do this, that comes out of the academic affairs area, and they're able to give a bonus to appreciate staff who have done this."

Molly Johnsen, the academic coordinator for the English department at Middlebury, is currently teaching her first J-Term course, "The Art of Storytelling," this winter. Johnsen told The Campus in the fall that the additional compensation was not a large factor in why she wanted to teach during J-Term.

"I am doing it for the love of teaching," she said. "I love teaching, and I really miss it, so I'm excited to have this opportunity."

However, Johnsen believes there should not be a disparity between the amount of compensation for Middlebury or visiting professors and the compensation for staff teaching J-Term.

"I don't think it's fair," Johnsen said. "I do understand if the college wants to make sure that I continue to do my staff job, but if I'm doing the same amount of work as anybody else, especially a visiting professor who has the same credentials as I do, an MFA or an MA. The fact that they make a lot more money simply because they're not a staff person at Middlebury doesn't make sense to me."

A statement on the Middlebury College website asks faculty submitting J-Term course proposals to "[p]lease note that the standard stipend is different for members of the Middlebury staff who teach winter term courses. We welcome the exciting contributions that staff colleagues make to the curriculum, but also recognize that staff continue to be responsible for their regular duties, and continue to be compensated for that work. For that reason, when a staff colleague's course proposal is approved, and the relevant supervisor gives permission for it to be taught, the college pays a modest stipend in thanks to the colleague, on top of their regular pay."

According to Goss, visiting professors are paid under the compensation structure for adjunct faculty, which differs from the staff model of compensation. For

Continued on Page 2

SPORTS

Middlebury students, alumni compete at FISU World University Games

By JACK McGUIRE
Senior Sports Editor

Nine members of the Middlebury community competed in the FISU World University Games in Lake Placid, N.Y. from Jan. 12 to 22.

The winter edition of the FISU World University Games is an event held every two years that allows student athletes to represent their country and compete in winter sports while also incorporating educational and cultural events into the games. The University Games allow student athletes to compete in winter sports that the NCAA may not host competitions in, such as figure skating, speed skating and curling.

In figure skating, Ting Cui '25.5 represented the U.S. In the women's figure skating event, Cui came in 18th place during the short program part of the event, but withdrew from the competition before the free skate part of the event. Cui is still overall grateful for the experience.

"It was the experience of a lifetime competing at the University Games, beginning with the opening ceremonies and athlete oath and ending with a performance in front of the most supportive home crowd," Cui said.

Of the nine Panthers that represented Middlebury this year, four of them were members of the alpine ski team. Sophia Tozzi '26 and Nico Richeda '26 represented the U.S., Mika-Anne Reha '25 represented Canada and Michel Macedo '23 represented Brazil.

Middlebury's alpine skiers did well. Richeda finished 32nd out of 90 competitors in the men's slalom. Reha finished 15th out of 74 competitors in the women's slalom and 31st out of 80 competitors in the women's giant slalom. Finally, Tozzi finished 19th in the women's slalom and 26th in the women's giant slalom.

Middlebury alumni were also part of the contingency of Panthers competing at the University Games. Maddie Leidt '22 and Alexis Ryan '22, who were crucial parts of the Middlebury women's ice hockey team's National Championship last year, played for the U.S. women's ice hockey teams at the University Games. Emily McNamara '07, who is now the head women's ice hockey coach at Hamilton College, served as an assistant coach for the U.S. women's ice hockey team. The U.S. women's ice hockey team ended up placing fifth overall, and Leidt led the tournament in points, with four goals and eight assists.

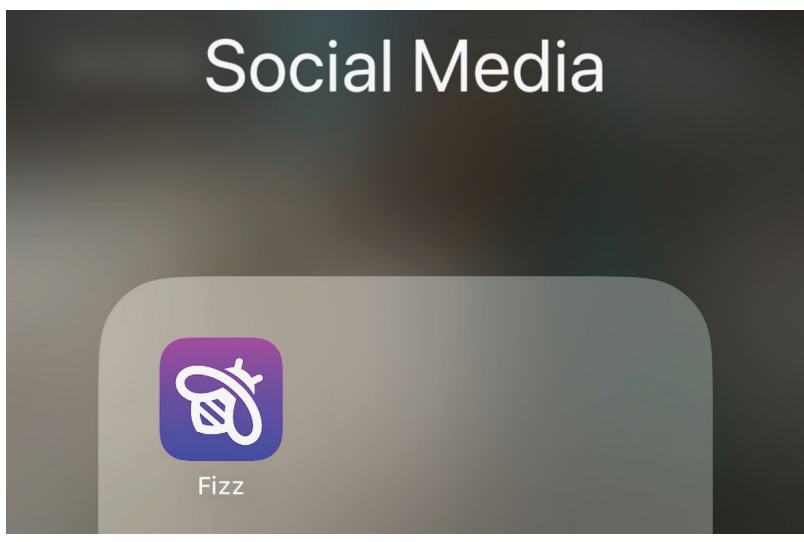
COURTESY OF TING CUI

Ting Cui '25.5 competes in figure skating at the 2023 FISU World University Games.

The U.S. men's ice hockey team also included members of the Panther community. Middlebury's assistant men's ice hockey coach Jack Ceglarski served as an assistant coach for the U.S. men's ice hockey team, and Bill Beaney, Middlebury's current men's golf coach and former men's ice hockey coach, worked as the General Manager for the U.S. men's ice hockey team. The U.S. men's team finished second in the tournament after losing the gold medal game to Canada.

For many of these athletes, this is hopefully just the beginning of their careers competing on a global stage."I'm planning on competing [in figure skating] all through my four years at Middlebury," Cui said. "Hopefully, I'll get some more opportunities to compete at international competitions in the future."

New anonymous social media platform pays students to promote, moderate and create content for their peers



LILY JONES/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

According to one source, Fizz pays moderators hundreds of dollars to post and monitor content.

By LILY JONES
News Editor

From @middconfessions to Yik Yak, anonymous social media platforms have historically found an audience among Middlebury students. Now, there is a new app that claims to offer a more exclusive and safer alternative to less regulated platforms. Fizz, created by two Stanford University students in 2020, creates an online anonymous platform that is exclusive to a campus community, as users are required to register with their college email.

Fizz's Middlebury platform launched on Jan. 5, and the company paid several students to market the app around campus. Benji Sindell '26 was recruited on LinkedIn by a Fizz employee to lead the on-campus marketing of the app. He says he was paid $400 for about four hours of work, which included recruiting eight of his friends to help advertise the launch. Sindell also noted that students he recruited to help were paid $100, and students were paid $15 to repost an advertisement on their Instagram stories.

"They advertise as a social media app that is better because it's exclusive to students at Middlebury. They also claim it is more regulated, less random and more safe in general, and the fact that it's more intimate," Sindell said. According to Sindell, who uses the app himself, these claims are "mostly true."

Two weeks since launching, the app seems to have found an audience, with many posts garnering hundreds of upvotes. This is more, on average, than its competitor Yik Yak, a similar anonymous social media app that became popular on campus over the past few years. But, while Yik Yak also allows users to post anonymously and up- or down-vote their peers' posts, the posts users see in their feed are based on location, not academic affiliation. Anyone within a five-mile radius can access the same feed, and there is little moderation of posts.

Unlike its competitors, Fizz hires on-campus moderators that both monitor and create content on the app.

"There are students right now on the app getting paid $500 a month, and I think they have to make 15 posts a day," Sindell said. Sindell estimates there are 10 to 15 moderators at Middlebury, and The Campus was able to identify at least three.

One of the Fizz moderators told The Campus that they could not comment as they have all signed non-disclosure agreements with Fizz. In October, the student newspaper of the Claremont Colleges spoke to a student moderator who was paid to post 30 to 40 times a day on the app.

The use of moderators may make some of the content look somewhat artificial to users.

"I don't really like the app because it seems like there are a ton of bots that upvote posts really quickly sometimes... I've also heard a ton of rumors that there aren't that many users, and the moderators are paid to post a ton," Skylar Diamandis '23, a former user of the app, said.

Sindell had similar concerns but still enjoys the app.

"It's not like Yik Yak where everything is genuine; there is some incentive in the posts, but I dont think it's a problem because [the posts] are still funny," Sindell said in reference to the claim that moderators are paid to post content.

The app has been popular on other campuses, especially in college communities that would benefit from the exclusive nature of the app. The company claims that 95% of Stanford undergraduates and 70% of Rice University students have downloaded the app. Fizz has also been popular at Dartmouth College, while also prompting concerns about hate speech and bullying.

"They take a very non-traditional approach to advertising on campus, and they told me it's easier at bigger schools where people are less concerned about people advertising stuff or people phishing for information," Sindell said. Sindell also noted that Fizz asked permission to have their own employees do the on-campus marketing, but the college denied their request.

When a new user downloads the app, Fizz notifies them that they are not affiliated with their school, that users are always anonymous and that nothing posted will be linked back to their institution. Last November, Stanford students accused Fizz of failing to follow through on their promises of total anonymity for users after they were able to hack the app and found that phone numbers and email addresses were accessible and posts and upvotes were directly linkable to identifiable information.

The success of Fizz's attempt to censor hate speech, something that Yik Yak has historically had issues with at Middlebury, has been unclear. "You will still find weird stuff, and if you look hard enough you'll find hate speech, but it's way less obvious than Yik Yak," Sindell said.

Nima Khodakhah '25, who worked with Sindell to market the app, has mixed feelings about the app. "I downloaded it as a joke, and there is some weird stuff on it, but it is funny, and I enjoyed it, so I was surprised," Khodakhah said.

NEWS

Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) creates intersectional affinity space for students

By HANWEN ZHANG

A speed-friending event hosted by Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) filled Crossroads...

▶ PAGE 2

LOCAL

Newly opened Shiretown Marketplace serves up comfort and community

By COLE CHAUDHARI

Rikert and the Snow Bowl handle lower-than-usual snowfall this season

By MAYA HEIKKINEN

▶ PAGE 3

OPINIONS

Archiving Dissent: Feminist lessons for student activists

By ELISSA ASCH and ROSE EVANS

I'm broke. I shouldn't be: The reality of delayed pay

By RACH PECK

▶ PAGE 6

ARTS & CULTURE

From the Archives: A glimpse into gender politics at Middlebury in the early 1900s

By TULIP LARSON

As one of the first liberal arts schools to become co-ed in 1883, Middlebury College is often...

▶ PAGE 10

SPORTS

Home Recap: How did the Panthers do this weekend?

By OWEN PARK

Seven Questions with Charlotte Marks '23.5, field hockey

By RYAN HEINZERLING

▶ PAGE 12

Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) creates intersectional affinity space for students

By HANWEN ZHANG
Contributing Writer

A speed-friending event hosted by Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) filled Crossroads Cafe with laughter on Oct. 22. More than 20 students spent their Saturday afternoon together chatting and getting to know new friends — a large turnout for the small group.

"It was a small event. People built many intimate connections, and that's what we want," club treasurer Jocelyn Cedeño '23 said.

The speed-friending event was one of the several programs developed by QTPOC's (pronounced "Cutie-POC" by its members) current board members, many of whom took over leadership roles during the pandemic and hope to revive the group after inactivity during the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic and several members studying abroad, the club was not very active until new members came in this year Cedeño said.

Since the past year, QTPOC has hosted several talks, queer-themed movie nights and dinners aimed at uplifting the voices of queer and transgender students of color. Now, for many members, it has become a safe space for them to open up about their marginalized identities and build tight bonds.

As one of QTPOC's two events coordinators, Angeles Arroyo '23 collects event ideas from every group member. An inclusive and welcoming atmosphere is her priority.

"The idea is to make new friends and it doesn't have to be a lot of work, while we also want to have serious conversations when there are no other spaces [to do that]," Arroyo said.

The group's mission is to create a community on campus for intersectional identities. They felt that other affinity organizations often only focus on one dimension of one's identity — such as race, gender or sexuality — but fail to see these dimensions as interconnected.

Communications and Advertising Manager Jarlenys Mendez '23 recalled joining another queer affinity organization on campus but feeling uncomfortable as a person of color in the predominantly white group. "But QTPOC is intentionally bringing as many people under that umbrella term as possible," Mendez said.

For QTPOC president Isabela Bahadorzadeh '23, the group's intimacy also makes it stand out among the various cultural affinity organizations on campus. Even though only a small number of people attend their events, those who do develop close connections beyond the weekly meetups.

"Big orgs are amazing, but it's nicer to have intimate connections," Bahadorzadeh said.

While hoping to remain close-knit, QTPOC is also recruiting more first-year students as the current board members are in their senior year. Genesis Rodriguez '23 believes that Middlebury's increasingly diverse student population means the QTPOC community can benefit more people.

"It's such a rewarding opportunity to push it into the radar of underclassmen at this crucial time," Rodriguez said.

Bahadorzadeh added that in the spring semester, QTPOC is planning several joint events with other student organizations. They plan to host dim sum events in collaboration with Asian Students in Action (ASIA) and pottery sessions for QTPOC members with the pottery club.

The members believe that with young blood and collaboration with other organizations, QTPOC's new year will be busy and promising. But according to club leaders, more work needs to be done by the college community to support the intercultural groups on campus.

"Our time here is relatively short. Our experiences are defined by staff members we identify with, and they stay here for long periods of time. [They are] not only overworked but also having to put in more emotionally. For QTPOC spaces to thrive, we need staff and faculty of these identities who also thrive here," Rodriguez said.

How are staff compensated for J-Term teaching?

Continued from Page 1

Middlebury professors, teaching a winter course is part of their official responsibilities and included in their regular salary.

Carol Wood, director of the Middlebury Costume Shop, is teaching "Couture Costume" this J-Term. She acknowledged how the college has to balance its budgetary concerns with fairly compensating staff.

"It could be more, but I do understand the college's perspective on it. The administration, if they're saying, 'You're already pulling down a paycheck. Why should we pay you on top of that?' I get that... If they didn't offer any compensation, I would probably not teach," Wood said. "But if the college says, 'Hey employee, come teach for free for us,' I would have an issue with that."

Wood expressed how she believes Middlebury compensates staff members like her at a higher rate due to its unique location in Vermont.

"This place pays a whole lot better than other institutions, I think, because they have to. Because we're so far away from anything, in order to get people to come and teach here or work here, they pay a little bit more," Wood said.

Ursula Olender, director of the Center for Careers and Internships (CCI), shared her excitement for teaching the course "Live Your Best (Future) Life: From College To Career" along with CCI Associate Director Tracy Himmel Isham.

"I feel like it's a privilege to be able to stand in front of a group of students and teach them," Olender said. Though she is enthusiastic about teaching her class, Olender also noted how the size of the bonus paid to staff teaching during J-Term could be challenging for some.

"A lot of people are struggling with changes to the compensation structure, plus people are generally struggling with inflation and food costs and all of these things," Olender said. "I don't want to invalidate that there are people who really rely on this income [from the bonus]."

Staff member Timothy Parsons, the college's landscape horticulturist, is teaching "Trees and the Urban Forest." He did not take the J-Term stipend heavily into consideration when deciding to teach a winter course.

Instructors for J-Term courses are required to hold at least eight class hours per week, meet at least three times weekly, and are expected to cover roughly the same amount of content taught in a 12-week course. In an interview before the start of J-Term, Johnsen said that she is expected to work these hours in addition to her regular administrative job.

"I'm expected to do my exact position, and if I want to teach, I do it outside of those hours," Johnsen said.

After her class had begun, Johnsen updated The Campus about how her concerns from the fall had developed in J-term. She explained how she has continued to work her full-time position as an academic coordinator while choosing to take on the burden of teaching on her own time.

"I'm not doing any work for class during my coordinator hours. And I do that very purposely," Johnsen said. "It's so much work to plan a class and prepare and grade and all of that. And I do that on my own time. And so my whole family has had to make some sacrifices. Which is my choice, but also what I feel like doesn't make sense about the payment disparity because nothing's taking away from the hours that I work as Academic Coordinator." Johnsen said.

Johnsen added that even though she is enjoying teaching her course, the compensation she received through this bonus was not equivalent to the amount of work required to do so. She described how her choice to teach on Friday instead of Monday-Thursday meant she needed additional childcare during J-term. It also took time away from her personal and family life.

"It definitely, in retrospect, is way too much work to teach this class for $1,000. It doesn't make sense," Johnsen said. "And I do love teaching so much, and it breaks my heart. But I don't think that it's feasible for my family life to make the sacrifice simply because I love being in a classroom. And that's really too bad."

Wood spoke about her perspective on balancing working on costumes for the theater department with teaching a J-term course. She is responsible for running the costume shop, which includes tasks like payroll and financial reconciliations as well as finishing costumes, shopping and maintaining the costume department's spaces. However, J-Term is not a busy time for Wood, so she uses the free time to teach a course.

"If I'm prepping for a class during what we have decided are work hours, nine to five, if something has to get done and I filled my time with prepping for a class, then I have to do it before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. or on the weekend," Wood said.

The J-Term bonus is a set amount no matter how many hours staff members spend on teaching. Goss expressed that outside the bonus, hourly employees would be paid their regular wage for hours they spend teaching.

"If they do end up working more, we would expect them to enter their hours and get paid more, but their supervisor would have to have approved those additional hours," she said.

Regarding salaried staff members, Goss said their pay outside the bonus would remain the same regardless of the hours they spend on teaching.

"So the idea would be that we wouldn't expect someone to work double the amount of time, right? We would be expecting them to adjust their workload to balance it," she said.

This might involve other staff members in the same department taking on some of their responsibilities. The ability of a department to absorb this work is something staff members' supervisors take into account when deciding whether or not to grant approval to teach a J-Term course.

"It would be a supervisor looking at workload and the capacity of other people in the department to take something on," Goss said.

Teaching a winter term course is voluntary for staff members and visiting professors, while full and associate professors are usually required to teach one winter term course every two years.

"Nobody asked us to teach this. We pitched it ourselves as something we thought would be of value to the students that we're here to serve," Olender said.

"It's much more work than I thought when I first started. It is also a lot of fun," Parsons said.

Johnsen described being conflicted about future J-Term while emphasizing that teaching her course this semester was a decision she made herself.

"I don't know whether I would do it again," Johnsen said. "I love it so much. It's going really well. I really like my class a lot. Middlebury students are so smart and on it, unlike any other students I have ever taught. And it's been this really special experience. So it'd be really hard to not do."

Wood previously taught her first J-Term class in January 2021, and she was compensated with the same $1,000 bonus being paid this year. According to Parsons, the J-Term compensation model for staff has not been updated since he first taught a winter term course in January 2010.

Although the J-Term bonus may not have changed, Middlebury recently implemented a new compensation system for staff.

Johnsen expressed her disappointment with how her experience teaching this J-term has impacted her.

"I don't really feel valued by Middlebury College, and that doesn't feel good. Especially because Middlebury College is my primary employer. I don't go home and do something else after winter term," Johnsen said. "This is my job and to feel not valued is a bummer. It doesn't feel good to work in a place like that."

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Newly opened Shiretown Marketplace serves up comfort and community

By COLE CHAUDHARI
Contributing Writer

TOM NEVINS/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Front of Shiretown Marketplace.

Located just past Twilight Hall and tucked into an offshoot of College Street is Shiretown Marketplace. A relatively new addition to the downtown Middlebury food scene, Shiretown is a burgeoning favorite among local residents and Middlebury College students alike.

Open for breakfast and lunch Tuesday through Sunday, Shiretown Marketplace offers both a sit-down eatery and a marketplace, which sells locally sourced snacks and provisions. The marketplace also boasts an extensive selection of craft alcohols.

Items on the breakfast menu include challah french toast and huevos rancheros, while popular meals on the lunch menu are the BBQ pork sandwich, french onion grilled cheese (a winter special) and the tri-tip sandwich.

While providing a reliable selection of local favorites and comfort foods, the menu aims to also be dynamic and responsive. In an interview with The Campus, Shiretown owner Kevin Archambeault described how the business rotates menu items, explaining how some dishes might transition from brief featurettes to engrained staples.

"We started on a monthly basis, switching out a number of different items while still keeping the tri-tip beef sandwich and pork sandwich as staples," Archambeault said. "At this point, though, we are changing seasonally while also running a number of different specials each week and test marketing with those."

The test marketing with which Shiretown is experimenting seems to be working, as students of the college have praised both the eatery and Archambeault.

"The staff are super friendly, and the owner is always asking my opinion on certain dishes. The food is so delicious and full of flavor," Theo Kogan '26 said.

"I really like how Shiretown Market reminds me of back home. It has a great vibe and is incredibly homey, and it is an excellent place to study and chill out," Jack Underwood '26 said.

Shiretown currently has six employees but is looking to expand come spring and summer.

Future additions to the space include a renovation of the exterior patio in order to add seating and dining areas outside. They also plan to reopen the vital creemee stand, which made its first reappearance in summer 2022 after Shafer's, which originally operated the stand, closed in 2021.

As of now, Shiretown is able to host small group gatherings, comfortably seating 50-person events.

"We currently have an event coming up with the college where people are rotating through different tables while sampling different dishes," Archambealt said. "We are available for banquets and small gatherings for private events, and the proximity to the college makes it easy for students to walk here for events and other functions."

Originally from Greenwich, N.Y., Archambeault worked in restaurants throughout his school-aged years and began a career as a graphic designer and photographer in California in 2004.

After meeting his wife in Hermosa Beach, Archambeault bounced up and down central California, before settling down in Paso Robles to begin work at an up-and-coming winery in 2009.

"Being a tasting room manager, I quickly realized that there was such a demand for food along with wine, which reignited my culinary side of things," he said. "I started catering events at wineries and ended up catering barbecues for 250 to 300 people at a time at the Derby Wine Estates."

Archambeault and his family left California in 2018 and moved back to the east coast to be closer to family. Settling down just south of Middlebury in Cornwall, Archambeault said he and his wife were intrigued by the array of craft beverage opportunities in Middlebury.

After working for Otter Creek Brewing for a little while, he and his wife signed the lease on the current Shiretown space on College Street and began to realize a dream many years in the making.

"I pushed myself to learn carpentry and remodeling, and as we moved into this space, my father and I did all of the work ourselves," Archambeault added, referring to the personal family relics that adorn the store's walls. "We tried to tie in all of these elements that told the story, and we wanted to make sure that we put our stamp on it. We want to have a story behind everything."

Archambeault's work schedule is anything but light — he works in the restaurant from 5 a.m. until close, often staying later into the evening to ensure that all operations are running smoothly.

"I guess I never really dreamed that this would all happen," he said. "But now that we are making it happen, it is not hard to wake up in the morning and come here. It is awesome."

Rikert and the Snow Bowl handle lower-than-usual snowfall this season

By MAYA HEIKKINEN
Editor at Large

Snow is a characteristic ingredient of Vermont winters, essential for avid skiers, snowboarders and other participants in outdoor winter sports.

Snowmaking technology has allowed both the Rikert Outdoor Center and the Middlebury College Snow Bowl to remain open and running and even host races regardless of the presence of natural snow. However, less snowfall than usual and warmer temperatures this season have placed greater pressure on snowmaking and have impacted the number of open trails at both ski centers.

According to Mike Hussey, director of the Snow Bowl, natural snowfall this season had amounted to about 42 inches as of mid-January. While higher temperatures have limited the ability to make snow, the Snowbowl has been able to meet its snowmaking targets and keep 100% of snowmaking trails open, though the remaining natural trails require snowfall in order to open.

The snowmaking trails, however, still offer enjoyment for skiers of all experience levels.

"We have had beginner-level, intermediate-level and expert-level terrain open since the first day of operations, so we have not been limited to the type of skier that has been visiting," Hussey wrote in an email to The Campus.

August Newell '23, who has been snowboarding at the Snow Bowl this winter, observed that many of the trails connecting routes were initially lacking in snow, but more routes have been opening up just in the last couple of weeks.

Even with snowmaking, there is still less snow overall. "You hit some rocks," Newell said.

Snowmaking technology has also been responsible for keeping Rikert open this season. According to Robert Drake, director of Rikert Outdoor Center, the snowmaking system has benefited both college and high school nordic teams, as well as the local community, by consistently keeping about 2.5 kilometers (1.55 miles) of trails open, including the race course.

While there was snow at the start of the season on all of the trails, rain washed it away, and the snowmaking system has since played a greater role.

"We're lucky that investment has been made, some number of years ago, to put some insurance on our race course, and then that has transferred to our community as well, being able to use that even when there's not an event going on," Drake told The Campus.

According to Drake, the ability to make snow is dependent on local environmental conditions. Temperature and humidity must be perfect in order to run the snowmaking system, he said, which means that the forecast must be monitored intensely throughout the season in order to take advantage of any chance to make snow.

This also requires increased flexibility on the part of Rikert's staff.

"It all kind of has to come together for us to make the snow, and it's tough on our staff, because we are constantly saying 'we're on, we're not, we are, we're not, we are' and then there may be a window of opportunity to run [the snowmaking system]," Drake said.

While warmer temperatures have also required the Snow Bowl to be more flexible in its snowmaking schedule, staffing volume is dependent on the number of lifts operating and has remained consistent throughout the season.

Despite the capacity of both ski centers to keep trails open, the number of visitors to the centers has fluctuated and decreased along with the lack of natural snow. This is partly due to a common perception that skiing conditions will be poor when there is little snow in surrounding areas, Hussey said.

"Generally folks are not excited to ski when they look out their window and see brown ground. However, those that have come have found great skiing conditions and have been impressed," Hussey wrote.

Despite snowmaking efforts, some skiers still find that the lack of natural snow alters the skiing experience. Kyle Hooker '24 said that not much was open when he went alpine skiing at the Snow Bowl over MLK weekend and that the conditions have generally been "less fun" as a result of the lighter snowfall.

Hooker reflected on the snowfall this winter beyond the Bowl.

"Even apart from skiing, there are probably a dozen other reasons why I love snow, and just having at least a little bit of white on the ground, like on campus, is really nice, it really brightens it up," Hooker said.

While low visitation has the potential to hurt both centers financially, Hussey reported that numbers are increasing with the arrival of natural snowfall. At Rikert, weekend and holiday visitation has remained normal, and season pass sales have been holding — a reflection of locals' faith in reliable snowmaking, Drake said.

"Because of our snowmaking, people depend on us, and they know we're here for them and we make it happen," Drake added. "Again, for that snowmaking benefit, our guests that have bought passes for years and years in a row depend on us for that. They have faith that we'll make that happen."

In addition to ensuring that the Middlebury College nordic team can continue to train and race at home, thanks to its consistent snowmaking efforts, Rikert has also been able to host races from other areas that are unable to due to lack of natural snow or snowmaking However, Rikert too has been forced to move one event as well as cancel another for the first time in years due to warmer temperatures that prevented adequate snowmaking.

Since then, Rikert has hosted the 39th annual Bogburn Classic race on Jan. 7 and the St. Michael's College Carnival on Jan. 20 and 21. Several more events are scheduled throughout February and March at Rikert, including the Eastern High School Championships on March 10–12.

The Snow Bowl has not needed to cancel or move any events this winter. Upcoming races can be found on their website.

ELIZA KING FREEDMAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The view from the Sheehan lift.

Sip on this: Your guide to local tastings and fine beverages

By SAM LIPIN
Local Editor

For many Middlebury students (sans Thesis writers, language learners and STEM majors), J-term is a time for play and exploration. While some prefer to ski, others to snowboard, still others to collage in their dorm rooms, I prefer to eat and drink. For those upperclassmen who have done the usual Middlebury culinary shtik — a flight at the Woodchuck Cidery, a lunch at Sabai Sabai and a $5 tasting at the Schmetterling Wine Shop (returning in February) — I wanted to suggest a handful of spots worth the schlep for tasty snacks and beverages. For this first issue, I will be highlighting places to grab a drink or a taste in Middlebury and Burlington that I've been to and adored.

Golden Rule Meadery

Alexander Aphel's tasting room at 8 Elm Street near Royal Oak Coffee is the best choice if transportation out of town is not an option. Aphel makes all of his mead from 100% local honey, employing only wild yeasts and never adding sulfur to his products. His mead was recently showcased at the Vermont Wine Fair where he poured about 15 of his meads — all differing in taste profile, ABV, body and color.

Aphel also spoke to the environmental impact of glass bottling and shipping, suggesting the use of kegs for those winemakers willing to forego tradition. You can talk to him more about this and taste a diverse selection of meads Friday through Monday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. He encourages customers to bring their own reusable containers up to 64 oz. to be filled with the mead of their choice.

Zero Gravity Brewery

It can be overwhelming to select a brewery outside of Middlebury. There are just too many options! But I believe Zero Gravity's tasting room (or should I say warehouse) to be top tier. Located at 716 Pine St. in Burlington, Zero Gravity has options for all kinds of beer drinkers from the après IPA sippers (me) to the Guinness enthusiasts to those who prefer something with more fruit and less hops. Their Conehead IPA is their flagship easy-drinking hazy IPA, but the Little Wolf APA is a good option for those who want something a bit more floral and aromatic. Their stouts are constantly rotating, but currently on draft is their Irish stout Extra Stout displaying notes of coffee, cocoa and caramel. Patrons can also try their sour selections (which I can't handle but please my friends) such as the I Carried a Watermelon gose ale and their Strawberry Moon sour. I also appreciated their experimental approach to their fermentations which blur the line between beer and wine, including their Mungo Berry kettle sour brewed with an assortment of berries that could be mistaken for a zippy and energetic orange wine or their Funkytown sour ale aged in Pinot Noir barrels, which gives it a beautiful rose pink color. There is too much to try at Zero Gravity, so I suggest going with a group of friends and passing your glasses around. The tasting room and restaurant is open every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Their banh mi is to die for.

Dedalus Wine Market and Bar

Now, as an impassioned Schmetterling Wine Shop employee, it's difficult for me to suggest another shop to fulfill your wine drinking needs. But until our own tastings start back up in February (stay tuned), Dedalus is a great option to taste exciting new wines and maybe even learn something in the process (also see Wilder Wines in Burlington).

Located at 388 Pine St. in Burlington, Dedalus specializes in fine wines, boasting an extensive Burgundy and Napa Valley selection, while also offering cheaper and more approachable options for the college-aged wine drinker balling on a budget. Some of my favorites to note: Domaine Dupeuble's 2022 'Beaujolais Nouveau,' carbonically macerated (meaning the stems and seeds placed with the grapes in the fermentation tank) and aged in stainless steel, is a fantastic expression of the traditional natural winemaking methods of the region (Domaine Dupeuble was established in 1512) and is personally a favorite style of mine; Bilo Idro's 'Plavac Mali' from Dalmatia, Croatia has been blessing the many shelves of Vermont for a while now, and the secret of the indigenous grape is still just that — put it in the fridge for an hour and taste with friends; finally, up the ante with any of Contravento ('against the wind' labeled for their experimental winemaking style) wines from Abruzzo, Italy — they zing and are best enjoyed with chinese food or pizza.

Although they have a large wine shop where they do free tastings (Thursdays 4–7 p.m.), Dedalus also runs a wine bar and restaurant in the same space. It's classy and surprisingly inexpensive. Wines by the glass range from $9–17, and who wants to pay $17 for a glass of suffocating champagne anyway. Try Jean Paul Thevenet's 'Beaujolais Villages' with their boquerones and thank me later.

Editor's Note: Sam Lipin '23.5 is an employee at Schmetterling Wine Shop.

SAM LIPIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The interior of Dedalus Wine Market and Bar.

Ilsley Public Library announces renovation plans

By CHARLIE FISCH
Contributing Writer

The Ilsley 100 Project Team, responsible for leading renovations to the Ilsley Public Library in downtown Middlebury, has announced the options for a library makeover. The library building will reach its 100th anniversary in 2024, and with the space struggling to meet community needs, the team has proposed four options for updating the space.

Depending on the final renovation plan, construction on the building is expected to begin in late 2024 or 2025.

The Ilsley Public Library was built in 1924 at the end of the Carnegie Period. Its style is typical of early 20th-century libraries.

The original building was constructed in a cruciform shape, which is an ideal format for a library, according to Ilsley Director Dana Hart. Due to the Middlebury community's expanding needs and the introduction of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the library has since made renovations in an attempt to increase space and accessibility.

A renovation in 1977 added the side entrance and elevator, while an additional wing with a reference room was built in 1988. The need for further renovations arose in 2007, but numerous challenges prevented renovations from gaining traction. The Library Building Committee proposed a plan in 2017, but due to the downtown bridge and rail project, changes in library staff, and the Covid-19 pandemic, the project had to be put on hold.

These additions over the past 100 years have contributed to some of the building's problems today — the 1977 side entrance is unwelcoming, and the elevator is on its last legs, often stalling with patrons inside. The 1988 renovation created a large space out of the sightline of the front desk, creating safety issues.

Along with these concerns, the library hopes to better adapt the space to the community. They plan to add 6,000 square feet to the space in order to increase programming and community space. Hart identified her main concerns with the building: its safety, accessibility, lack of flexibility and lack of space overall.

These safety concerns include the unmonitored bathrooms and the need for sightlines in the building. Groundwater and roof leaks, a temperamental boiler and a lack of second egress on the third floor are also issues to be addressed. The side entrance and unreliable elevator limit accessibility, while the many columns and supporting walls interfere with flexibility and workflow.

With the children's room in the basement, the lack of a teen room or community meeting room, and the need for more shelving space, the library requires an expansion to better serve members of the Middlebury community, library leadership explained.

Joe McVeigh, president of the library board of trustees, emphasized the importance of flexibility in an increasingly digital world."Nobody knows what a library is going to be like in twenty years or fifty years. They've changed a lot over the past number of years, so consequently, our ideal would be to create a space where whatever happens, we can move things around," McVeigh told The Campus.

Both Hart and McVeigh are members of the Ilsley 100 Project Team, which was tasked by the town of Middlebury Select Board to make plans for the library.

At a Jan. 10 Select Board meeting, the team presented four options, each with cost estimations, designated Options A, B, C and D. While the Select Board chose Options B and D as possibilities, the team presented all four plans to the community to give them a full picture of the planning process.

Estimated to cost $5.5 million, Option A proposed renovating the current building. While it would preserve the original structure, it does not address the library's need for more space or flexibility, and, accordingly, will not be a renovation option.

The committee also abandoned Option C, estimated at $12.7 million, which involved remodeling the original building and adding an offsite annex, likely in the long-empty Ben Franklin store on Main Street. This option addressed the library's need for space but would separate the children's and adult sections, preventing the intergenerational mingling that is vital to the library.

Option B involves renovations to the current building with an expansion that would include some demolition of the previous addons. Priced at $14.8 million, this option would preserve the original structure and create more space, while also being the most straightforward option in the sense that it would not require the purchase of new property. However, it would limit future growth and require the library to relocate during construction.

Finally, Option D, estimated to cost $23 million, proposes an entirely new library building in the lower parking lot area behind the current library. While this option would provide a blank slate for the library and increase outdoor space, it would likely require a developer to build an attached parking garage with housing or commercial space, and the old building would be lost.

Though the current building has its host of difficulties, patrons love the library as a community fixture. The library provides space for a variety of functions, including youth activities, concerts, exhibitions, and other literacy and community groups.

At a public Zoom meeting soliciting feedback about the project, many community members reiterated their love for the old building and its central location. While some attendees were excited by Option D's fresh start, Option B was a frontrunner. Many residents are interested in maintaining the original library building because it has been a part of Middlebury for so many years.

"One of the people that we work with remembers coming to kindergarten downstairs here. People for generations have brought their kids here. I think it has a place in people's hearts," McVeigh said.

While there is not currently a definite path for the library's future, it certainly aims to continue anchoring and uniting the community.

"The Ilsley Public Library is the heart of the Middlebury community. We are the one place in Middlebury where everyone is welcome for free for any reason. People can come here and just be" Hart said.

A final decision will be made on the renovation plans in mid-February. More information and updates about the renovations can be found on the Ilsley Public Library website. All Select Board meetings are open to the public and take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Ilsley Library reference room.

COURTESY OF CALEB KENNA
Front of Ilsley Library in the snow.

In the heart of Middlebury, a martial arts dojo that trains the mind, spirit and heart (and produces international talent)

By DEVIN SANTIKARMA
Multimedia Editor

Marcus Kim, pictured above co-founded the school over ten years ago. Before 2012, Kim taught Pencak Silat and mediation to at-risk youth.

IOPS is located right next to Sparrow Art Supply.

It's a rainy, cold afternoon as I walk down Main Street and descend a staircase overlooking Otter Creek Falls. At the bottom, I open the door to see a wide-smiled man who greets me and invites me into a dojo that has been ten years in the making. An intimate and very intentional space, the dojo's Indonesian artifacts and iconography paired with the window overlooking roaring waters below tell me that the place isn't just a martial arts room, but a temple for an artform.

The man who welcomes me is Marcus Kim, co-founder and chief instructor of Green Mountain Inti Ombak Pencak Silat, Vermont's first ever dojo for the study and practice of the Indonesian martial art of Pencak Silat. A martial arts form different from any other in the world, Pencak Silat, or Silat for short, has existed for thousands for generations, passed down by a select few royal guards of the Sultan. On the Inti Ombak Pencak Silat (IOPS) website, they explain that Silat is "characterized by high stances, diverse, flowery hand motions that allow for long, strong, fast striking and extensive langkah patterns or footwork. It has a strong emphasis on self defense, as well as the development of daya batin or internal power."

Kim founded his school in Middlebury with Earl Hurlburt, the first American in history to win a medal at the Pencak Silat championships. After training with Guru Daniel Prasetya, a direct descendent of the Mataram Kingdom of Central Java, Kim decided to bring Silat to Vermont in 2012, a time when he said "very few people here even knew what Pencak Silat was."

"It just felt like I had finally found a practice that was sacred and not pretentious," recalled Kim. "The first day I was shown Pencak Silat by a friend, I ended up training with him for ten hours straight that day. After he left, I trained ten hours every day for two weeks practicing the forms he showed me. That was something that I had not seen, heard or experienced in a martial art ever before."

In a room on the banks of Otter Creek, students of all ages and backgrounds are taught a mix of two styles — one from Central Java and one from the island of Madura. Central style is inherited from high-class royalty and characterized by elaborate dance-like motions called melangkah, which means "to step."

Madurese style, the other influence, is inherited from blue-collar origins. Kim explains to me that many who practiced the art were fishermen who trained and sparred on their boats, leading to a wide-stanced style and focus on balance. At some point in time, there was an arranged marriage between the prince of Central Java and the princess of Madura, creating the style of Silat now known as "Inti Ombak Pencak Silat," or in English, "Inner Wave Pencak Silat."

"You can't have Pencak Silat without an understanding of where the motions come from, why they look the way they do, why they use specific weapons, and their respective staccato or fluid rhythms," Kim said. It's apparent to me as I'm sitting in the dojo that Pencak Silat is a holistic education, hardly comparable to the shopping center, pay-to-play, throw-your-kids-in-karate type "dojos" I was forced to go to as a kid.

The levels of Pencak Silat are as follows: the Basic Phase, which consists of breathing sets, basic jurus (forms) and cultural education; Animal Phase, a more explosive and aggressive evolution of basic level; Element Phase, a mix of meditation, deeper histories and combining elements to accomplish a specific outcome; and the final phase, the Human Phase, the evolution of the homo sapien to connect with a higher power and ultimately become wise in regards to Javanese body, mind, spirit and soul. It's expected that most won't be able to master the Human Phase in their own lifetime. Even though Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country in the world, religion exists in plurality, with Muslim, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists coexisting more or less peacefully. Pencak Silat is not a form of religion.

"We don't teach religion, we guide people towards the development of spiritual awareness and connecting to their own higher power," Kim explained.

With connections to spirituality in a room equivalent to a mid-sized classroom at the college, Kim and Hurlburt have maintained their humble beginnings with stride. Kim is open regarding how his motivation has never been for profit, and has and will always be the sharing of the art, choosing to intentionally not put more effort into advertising than he needs to. He is grateful for the kindness the school has received throughout their journey, and recalls a specific gesture from a Middlebury professor that he will never forget.

"When we started, we were fortunate enough to be able to train with the aikido group led by Johnathan Miller-Lane, who is actually a Middlebury professor. When we approached him, his eyes lit up. 'I know what Pencak Silat is, and I want you guys to train here.' We asked him, 'How much for a month?' He dismissed my question. 'Don't even worry about it, just train here, we want you guys here.'"

Throughout the years, IOPS has always maintained a core group of eight to 10 students, even through the pandemic (with rigid testing and strict guidelines). Some are college students, some are residents, and all are drawn to the artform seeking something. This can be physical activity, a spiritual practice or even potentially a therapeutic intervention.

Recently, IOPS has increased its relationship with Middlebury College, working with field hockey coach Katharine DeLorenzo and running a four-week seminar over the summer with students from South Asia through the East India Project. Students can also successfully count Pencak Silat as a P.E. credit as required for graduation. Plus, due to the holistic nature of the martial art, they can provide different certifications such as Tai Chi, self defense and yoga from different curriculums to use as credit upon approval.

As Pencak Silat grows across the U.S. with dojos in major cities like Denver, New York City, Honolulu and Baltimore, Kim will continue to inspire both current and future students in the generational art of Pencak Silat with no plans on abandoning the project he jointly started here more than 10 years ago. If interested in joining a class, Kim encourages beginners to his general class on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Like the falls tumbling underneath it, Middlebury's own historic Green Mountain Inti Ombak Pencak Silat school flows like water into the hearts of all who find themselves a part of it, challenging them to ride on top of, instead of drown in, their inner wave.

Framed above is a golden chariot used by the Sultan, or in Indonesian Kereta kencana. The fabric below is known as Batik, which in the olden days was indicator of location and class.

Various weapons used in Pencak Silat. Jurus must be done with multiple different kinds of weapons, teaching students to be able to use whatever they have at their disposal as a form of self defense.

PHOTOS BY DEVIN SANTIKARMA

Investing in social life

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

With few Covid-19 guidelines still in place, many parts of campus life are starting to return to pre-pandemic routines. Students are once again able to eat in the dining halls, attend most classes without masks and go out to parties or other gatherings on the weekends.

We are entering a new era for campus social culture — one that does not feature the same kinds of masking and gathering restrictions as previous years — it still remains undeniably altered by the pandemic. Covid-19 has not gone away; members of our community are still contracting the virus, and all are reckoning with the grief and loss brought on by years of living amid a global pandemic.

But the pandemic has also reshaped Middlebury in other ways, disrupting traditions and continuity between each class's experience at the college. Many elements of the pre-pandemic social scene have not returned, or not returned in full force. The Grille, which closed at 2 a.m. pre-Covid, now closes at midnight. Many evening events for students seem to have disappeared over the past few years; MCAB used to offer bi-weekly trivia nights, but now students must rely on Thursday nights at the Marquis where the space is limited and students — who often arrive an hour an advance to claim a table — compete for seats with local residents. Members of our Editorial Board noted hearing about fewer open parties on the weekends, and some upperclassmen on our staff mentioned that they do not want to host in their spaces due to drunk students' track record for destructive behavior.

With J-Term offering a reprieve from the traditional workload and with an early sunset cutting outdoor activities short, it's become increasingly obvious when students are searching for something to do in the evening. Limited options have sometimes meant crowds of students all vying for entry to a single party or event. A clear example noted by the 21+ members of our Board is "Bar Night."

Bar Night, held on Thursday night in the basement of Two Brothers Tavern, is a rare, walkable opportunity for students of age to get off campus and enjoy a fun night on the town with their friends. But with few other options on campus or in town (Mr. Ups, the other bar that students frequent, closes at 9 p.m.) Bar Night is getting increasingly popular — and chaotic. Two Brothers (understandably) limits the capacity for Bar Night, meaning that those who don't arrive early sometimes stand in line for as long as an hour, often in rain or snow. (Recently, there has even been a line to get into the upstairs restaurant part of Two Brothers during Bar Night hours.)

Perhaps in anticipation of a long wait, many students show up already drunk. Many are disrespectful to Two Brothers employees and to their peers, who are subjected to pushing or cutting in line. A student employee at Two Brothers Tavern has expressed that her co-workers are frustrated with the behavior of students on Thursday nights, saying that oftentimes students are rude to the bartenders, don't tip and vape inside despite vaping being explicitly forbidden.

Why, if Two Brothers is the only venue open past 9 p.m., are students destructive and disrespectful to the space and its employees? A possible answer is that because of the lack of nightlife options on campus and in town, students look to Bar Night as their only opportunity to go out, so they desperately want to get in — hence the cutting, shoving and bad tipping –– and don't have much regard for the space or the people so long as they succeed.

Of course, this mindset doesn't excuse bad behavior. We wholeheartedly believe students should respect the spaces they occupy on and off campus. We know there are consequences when students don't do this — such as seniors not wanting to throw parties in their living spaces when they know their peers are prone to punch holes in their walls or pee in their elevators. While changing the social culture that permits this kind of bad behavior should be our primary goal, we also think some of the pressure could be taken off Bar Night if the college provided more late-night on-campus options, including some that are not centered around drinking.

In addition, if hosting late night events for 21+ college students seemed like a more enjoyable experience, it's possible that other venues in town with bars would consider adding their own versions of Bar Night. However, given the current behavior college students exhibit in town, we can't really blame them for wanting to shutter their doors at 9 p.m.

J-Term can be isolating — especially when options for off-campus entertainment are not accessible to all. The college could put on more fun winter events that can bring the community together. The 100 and 200 Days events have been huge hits, for example, and more events of that nature could go a long way.

We also recognize that expanding many late-night options, such as keeping the Grille open later, would present an additional burden for staff. For this reason, it feels more feasible and reasonable to push for more student-run and operated events. The college could also put more money into student organizations and social houses that are capable of hosting fun events open to the community. Maybe the college could work to establish a student-staffed bar on campus, or even occasional pop-up events designed and run by students.

Providing students with more social options doesn't have to relate solely to alcohol and partying. Many students turn out for late-night activities that don't involve drinking; take, for example, the popular observatory nights at BiHall.

It's clear students are looking for things to do in the evenings, especially during J-Term. Beyond taking the pressure off of the few off-campus options, focusing more attention on a variety of nighttime on-campus options could prove more accessible, ultimately helping to bring our community together. As we enter this new era for campus social life, one without some of the pre-pandemic fixtures or routines, we have an opportunity to create new traditions and reexamine old ones.

I'm broke. I shouldn't be: The reality of delayed pay

Op-Ed

***Rach Peck** is a member of the class of 2025.*

Deep breath. I turn on my phone and go to open my least favorite app — Bank of America. Face ID scans my face, immediately confirming that the worry lines and bitten lip staring in anticipation at the white screen do in fact belong to me. The number appears, and I wince — $76.

Okay. Let's do the math. Necessary expenditures coming up: $20 on medications, $30 on the lowest phone bill I could find. I'm nearly out of shampoo and body wash, so that'll run me another $12 at least. That leaves me with a whopping... $14. Less than two Dr. Feel Goods.

No student should be in this predicament, point blank - especially if you have a job on campus. We're now entering the fourth week of J-Term, and ResLife student staff still haven't been paid for the term. At Middlebury, ResLife student staff are paid on a term-to-term basis.

Listen, I know Americans often feel money is a topic best avoided, but I'm asking you to put that discomfort aside for a moment so you can perhaps better understand the lives of students like myself who are, to put it bluntly, poor.

If you didn't know me personally, you wouldn't know we aren't the same. My EFC — or Estimated Family Contribution, if you're lucky enough to not have to fill out the FAFSA — is 0. I am an independent student from the U.K., and I'm almost always here during breaks. As an independent student, I am entirely responsible for all of my own expenses both during and between semesters.

Going into my second year, I wanted to find a way to give something back to the place that has been giving me so much, and, simultaneously, I wanted to find a job – a source of income. I had really struggled my first year to figure out what kind of job fit best with my schedule and work habits. I, like so many of us, navigate mental health conditions every day, and, even without a job, my life at Middlebury is incredibly busy and exhausting. Adding something else significantly time-consuming to my schedule would come at the cost of my grades or my mental and physical health, and so the Resident Assistant gig, with duty hours and meetings in the evening after the school day is over,allows me to have a source of income and work experience without affecting my wellbeing.

Or at least I hoped it would. You see, while my RA paycheck is an essential source of income, the college doesn't quite seem to register that. It took them weeks — many weeks — to pay the ResLife staff in the fall. I actually had to explicitly beg them to pay me sooner because I had not a cent in my bank account. At the end of the debacle, I received a lengthy email from an Associate Dean telling me to expect payments within the first four weeks of a given semester and to "plan accordingly."

This response also reflects another way this wealthy institution fails to understand how living on a limited budget works. I can't really fault the school for not paying us immediately; indeed, in the real world, paychecks don't tend to get given out on the first day of work. The real crux of the issue lies in the vague timelines. "Within four weeks" means that whatever funds I have must either support me for the next seven days or the next month. The difference is astronomical. Obviously, I budget as though I'm going to get paid on the very last day of that fourth week.

As a result, though, I have to awkwardly explain why I can't go see my friends in their theater productions. I can't go to the Grille with my friends after a night out. You get the gist; it gets uncomfortable. And that four-week timeline was for the fall. For J-Term, all the RAs have heard so far is a vague announcement during training that the college is currently filing its taxes, meaning that they don't know when they're going to have time to pay us. Yup. Literally no timeline at all. I have absolutely no clue when I'm going to get paid.

Which brings me back to where I am now. Staring at my phone. Biting my lip raw. It isn't being poor in itself that worsens my anxiety; it's having no idea how long it will last.

The purpose of on-campus jobs is to create an equalizer for low-income students, yet this delayed pay timeline reflects the college's lack of understanding and support for students who live paycheck to paycheck. The college assumes that all students have some kind of buffer to get them through the first month of a semester, when many of us simply don't.

When I got that email from the Associate Dean in September criticizing my expectation that a campus job would pay on time, it felt like it was my fault that I hadn't "planned accordingly." Yet if a school claims to meet 100% of a student's demonstrated needs, how can they also expect students with an EFC of 0 to support themselves for extended periods of time without pay? The answer is simple: They can't.

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The Middlebury Campus

On the Record: An introduction

Column

Abigail Chang *is a member of the class of 2023 and the Editor in Chief of The Middlebury Campus.*

If you've read some of our recent editorials, you can probably tell that one of the things we talk about often in our Monday-night Editorial Board meetings is the importance of transparency. We've called for greater transparency across various areas of the college: an accessible breakdown of the way Middlebury distributes its funds as tuition continues to rise, more insight into student organization funding and more information about what to expect during the fraught housing draws of the past few years.

Given how often we call for transparency from the institution, I felt that it was only fair that we do as much as we can to be transparent about our own editorial processes. In the long run, I hope The Campus can be a newspaper that reflects and connects the whole community, and I know that will require constant reflection, scrutiny and change to meet current needs. Another big part of working towards that goal is an effort to make the paper more approachable — whether you plan to interact with it as a contributor, a source, a reader or some combination of the three.

This J-Term, I'm working my way through a few thousand Campus articles as part of an independent study, looking through old coverage to get a sense of what we're doing well, where we have room to improve and how our paper has evolved over the past four years. So, I thought, now that I'm more steeped in Campus coverage than ever, what better time could there be to start a column exploring the processes that help bring those stories to publication each week.

In this column, I plan to write a series of pieces that will serve as a window into the operations of our newspaper. I want this to be a space where I answer your questions, if you have them, about The Campus and, to the best of my abilities, the journalism industry in general. As Rain Ji '23, Tony Sjodin '23 (our two managing editors) and I wrote in our September Notes from the Desk, we want to recenter the newspaper around learning. I hope this column will provide some tools for reading the paper from the perspective of an insider.

I want to kick off this column by talking about a component of reporting that has broad relevance across many sections of the paper: the interview process.

At The Campus, we encourage writers to try, whenever possible, to conduct "in-person" interviews (by which we really mean real-time interviews — over the phone or on Zoom is fine too). This isn't because we're looking to catch you off guard or grill you with difficult, unexpected questions. In many ways, in-person interviews help us better understand how to place what a source tells us into the broader structure of a story.

While we can get what someone means from an email interview, it's easier to understand how they mean it when you can hear their tone or read their body language.

It's also much easier for reporters to ask follow-up questions in a live interview. While most writers will come into an interview with a prepared set of questions, these are often general and based on potentially limited knowledge that the writer has had access to about their article topic ahead of the interview. We can often get more specific details or illustrative anecdotes from asking follow-ups or probing a source to expand on a topic they've touched on only briefly in response to a broader, prepared question.

Asking follow-ups in person is also more efficient, increasing the likelihood that reporters will be able to get all the information they need before their deadline, since the writer and source won't need to go back and forth over email. Of course, there are some occasions when we'll still need to ask some follow-up questions after a "live" interview, particularly in the case of more complicated or longer-form stories, but the process is still, overall, much more efficient.

And for anyone who is worried about talking in a live interview, I get it. It can be hard to trust someone to accurately represent your perspective after a twenty-minute conversation. But know that we (writers and editors) also understand that when we're constructing an article, we're not just cherry picking quotes and information and splicing them together to create the clearest, most chronological or most informative narrative. We're thinking about how to represent the sources of those quotes and information fairly within the broader structure of the story. Part of upholding a commitment to accurate reporting is being conscious of the context from which a quote or paraphrase was drawn.

Another big, and sometimes contentious, part of the interview process is recording. We encourage reporters to record interviews if sources permit it. I know some people are nervous about being recorded, and what I usually tell sources is this: Recording the interview is best practice because it helps us make sure we're quoting and paraphrasing accurately. It's really hard to keep up with an interview if you're taking notes by hand, making it much easier for something to be mistyped or only partially written down. Having a recording means the writer can transcribe exactly what a source tells them, and it also makes it easier for editors to double check that the quotes that appear in the draft of a story are what the source told the reporter.

Recording can be a bit of a tough balance; in many ways, recorded interviews help protect sources by ensuring the accuracy of their quotes, but we also don't want a source to feel uncomfortable during an interview. We try not to push sources to give recorded interviews, but we will let you know why we feel like it's the best practice.

While interviews are a fairly basic and ubiquitous piece of the reporting process, there are a number of interview best practices that reporters adhere to that aren't necessarily general knowledge. I hope this piece serves as a broad explainer for a few of them, and I'll hopefully get to dive into some more specific cases, such as interviews with anonymous sources, degrees of anonymity and the criteria The Campus uses for deciding to grant anonymity, in a later installment.

And, as a bit of a side note, you don't have to give an interview to share your story with The Campus. You can submit an op-ed — an opinion piece of about 800 words — and work with the Opinions Desk to get it ready for publication.

You can also submit a tip through our online form. You can even submit one anonymously, although it's easier for us to follow up if you provide your name and contact information as a starting point, even if you don't want your name to appear in a story about what you've brought to our attention.

That's all for now. Let me know what your questions are and how I can use this column in the most useful way possible. You can reach me at The Campus' email address, campus@middlebury.edu.

ARCHIVING DISSENT: FEMINIST LESSONS FOR STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Op-Ed

Elissa Asch *and* ***Rose Evans*** *are members of the class of 2022.5.*

Content warning: This article references sexual assault.

In the early 2000s, student activists completely encircled Old Chapel to protest sexual assault on Middlebury's campus. They had a simple demand that the college was ignoring: to install more blue lights. As the protest continued, President Lebowitz's "right hand man" came out to engage with protestors. Finally, he told them that he "didn't understand the problem because sexual assault didn't happen on our campus." At the time Middlebury advertised itself as a "rape free campus."

What happened next was a show of bravery that inspired activists at Middlebury for years to come. Survivor after survivor stepped forward to say, "I was raped here." Lauren Curatolo '06, one of the protest organizers, was moved to tears. She remembers thinking, "How dare you say something like that when we all know." The blue lights went up later that year.

This story is one of many examples of feminist student protest at Middlebury over the years recorded for posterity by the Archives of Dissent and can be found in the oral history of Curatolo. The Archives, a collection of feminist histories at Middlebury, has been compiled and curated by Chellis House student workers over the last five years. We are two of the archivists who have also been involved in activism on this campus. Before we graduate in eight days, we have a message to impart to the student body.

Our goals for this archive are twofold. First, we seek to honor the difficult work that student activists have done over the years to better our community. Second, we offer these histories as an essential tool for current Middlebury activists to build upon activist lineages of the past. In a college setting with rapid turnover every four years, it is incredibly difficult to maintain institutional memory among activists. When key organizers graduate, their work is often lost, forcing new activists to start again from square one. Further, student turnover allows college administrators to be unaccountable to conversations or promises they've made in the past. In the collection of oral histories we've conducted with current and former student activists at Middlebury, a recurring theme is the way in which administrators have used falsely supportive rhetoric to stall or quell current activism. When activists (including the authors of this op-ed) have raised issues with administrators, a common response — which we have personally received — is something along the lines of, "Great new idea, give us a few years to look into it." A few years pass, those students graduate, and the college is in the clear to repeat the same script to the next wave of activists.

Sometimes the responses are even less positive, albeit still cloaked in the rhetoric of protecting survivors. Let us give you an example. One of the authors of this op-ed helped organize The Complicity Project in 2019, a library installation with photos, quotes, and statistics that delved into how students are complicit in a culture of sexual violence on campus, which can be found in the Archives of Dissent.

As we prepared for the display to go up, administrators and student groups affiliated with the Health and Wellness Office reached out to the organizers with criticisms. The main criticism: The display could trigger or harm survivors, and therefore the exhibition should be reconsidered. The organizers, many of whom were survivors themselves, left these meetings feeling flustered and discouraged. Their goal was to prevent violence by shining a light on it, and they had been deeply intentional about centering survivors and their well-being in the organizing process. Contextualizing this experience within the broader trend of administrative responses to student activism, the oral histories reveal that these concerns about triggering survivors have long been leveraged to maintain the status quo.

In 2011, eight years before the Complicity Project, the first It Happens Here was held at Middlebury. The event, which has been a mainstay on campus ever since, is an opportunity for survivors to anonymously share their stories of assault on their own terms. Pushback from administrators made it clear that they believed this event was harmful to survivors – simply by virtue of talking about sexual violence. This was despite the fact that students felt empowered to choose to share their stories, in large part because they felt they had no other institutional channels through which they could obtain a sense of justice or healing.

Other activist leaders we interviewed reported having similarly frustrating conversations with administrators. It turns out there's a long history of Middlebury administrators using the language of activism being "triggering" to gatekeep student action that they feel uncomfortable with. If this really were the case, they wouldn't be putting up posters with white block letters spelling "Need to talk about sexual assault?" in every bathroom on campus. The difference here is that these posters are sanctioned by the college, and they direct students through institutional channels, such as the Title IX Office, which exists to ensure the college's compliance with Title IX and, therefore, federal funding. Survivors have long reported that these channels are not triggering, but re-traumatizing.

Why are these stories important? After talking to these former activists, we were able to sift through the criticisms that were valid and worth addressing, and those that were manipulative and intimidating rhetoric. From our archival work, we learned that talking about violence is activating, because violence itself is activating — but working towards change is necessary. We have since been a part of activist work directly informed by these and other lessons from the Archives.

Abigail Chang/The Middlebury Campus

A blue light near Twilight Hall.

The Archives of Dissent are a vital tool for current activists, not only for understanding the challenges to activism — and the tools and strategies for navigating them — but also for connecting activists to a joyous lineage of feminist community. Activists interviewed in our Archives often talk about looking back on their work as some of their favorite moments at Middlebury, helping them make long-lasting friendships.

Towards the goal of making the Archives a living, breathing conversation in the present, we recently held an "Archives of Dissent Teach-In," in which student-activists gathered in Chellis House to collaborate and build coalition. Following a presentation about the Archives and its practical implications for student-activists, friends and strangers chatted over slices of pizza about the projects they are working on. They discussed the questions, "What challenges have you faced in your activism, and what lessons have you learned?" The room was filled with laughter and new collabs. It was clear: A joyous feminist community is alive and well on campus.

So, as the next wave of students graduate and those remaining continue to consider feminist issues that impact our campus community, we hope you will look to the Archives as a source of inspiration and knowledge. So many people have worked to make our community a more inclusive space, and so many are continuing to do this work on our campus. Join them. And archive it.

Stoke is high, but the climbing wall budget is not

Op-Ed

Katherine Michaelson *is a member of the class of 2025 and the Treasurer of the Middlebury Climbing Club.* ***David Goldsmith*** *is a member of the class of 2023.5 and the President of the Middlebury Climbing Club.*

NADIA HARE/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Hidden in a small loft above the indoor tennis courts, the Middlebury climbing wall is an unassuming and homely place. The loft is crowded — covered in climbing pads, equipment and furniture that the students who manage the space have scavenged from the recycling center. But at 4 p.m., the wall comes alive. Dozens of students file up the stairs into the tiny loft, filling the already cramped space with bodies and a unique manner of excitement that we have only been able to find within the Middlebury climbing community.

Our wall is special. It's special because the community of climbers works uniquely hard to keep it operational. There are a lot of challenges that come with maintaining the space and community centered around it; the wall is small, old and short-staffed. Since its inception, Middlebury climbing has been continuously overlooked and underfunded by the college. Given the popularity of climbing within recent months, that fact has to change.

Since the wall reopened after the pandemic, climbing has become an overwhelmingly popular activity within the student body. The GroupMe has over 500 members, over 600 students visited the wall since the start of the fall semester and nearly 400 of those who visited made a return. Club membership rates have significantly risen over the past years, and so has the frequency of visitors to the wall. On any given weekday, one could find it packed with students lined up to work on a route that might be troubling them, training for their future climbing plans or gathering in the space to socialize. The community that climbing provides here is strong. We've made a large number of friends from climbing at the wall, and we can say confidently that the community it provides has been formative in our Middlebury experiences. It functions in that way for many other students too. And it's not just students that come to climb on our campus — the wall also attracts professors, alumni and people within Addison County who would otherwise not be connected to campus or the student body. The Middlebury climbing wall is the only space for indoor climbing within an hour's drive. If not for the Middlebury wall, climbing would be inaccessible to many of these groups.

> Since its inception, Middlebury climbing has been continuously overlooked and underfunded by the college. Given the popularity of climbing within recent months, that fact has to change.

And, of course, we believe that making climbing accessible is an incredibly important thing — because the sport historically hasn't been inclusive. Climbing started gaining popularity among niche groups of outdoor enthusiasts in the mid-twentieth century. At that time, and for many decades after it, climbing was a white, male-dominated sport that required people to dedicate themselves to climbing outdoors and the dangers that came along with it. The development of indoor climbing and the popularization of the sport from an activity that only a small subculture could access to one with its own olympic event has allowed a more diverse group of people to climb.

However, the sport and wall still have a long way to go until it can feel truly inclusive. Bringing climbing to everyone with an interest in the sport has been the focus of the Middlebury Climbing Club because we believe that climbing can inspire important, positive change.

Although far from perfect, the wall at Middlebury makes climbing more accessible than nearly anywhere else. Entrance is free, far cheaper than a $20 student day pass to any other gym nearby. Gear, from shoes to ropes, is available to borrow while using the wall's services. Under leadership from interim Director for Outdoor Programs and Club Sports Rich Connell, help from the staff at the Student Activities Office, and motivation from the Climbing Club, the space has been able to replace gear and upgrade the training facilities. In fall 2021, the space even gained two new free standing units, but they are limited in usefulness for the majority of Middlebury's climbers, with only a handful of students taking advantage of this equipment. Even with the positives of Middlebury's wall, there are still issues needing to be addressed.

> We are struggling to keep up with demand with insufficient staffing and deteriorating infrastructure.

As climbing gains popularity, crags and gyms are nearing capacity. Middlebury's wall is no different. We are struggling to keep up with demand with insufficient staffing and deteriorating infrastructure. The wall was built in 2001, and although we affectionately refer to it as "janky," it seriously needs a refresh. Our setters struggle to add more holds to the wall after two decades of stripping the bolt holes. The style it's built around is nowhere to be found in gyms around the world. With the present popularity, the wall ranges from claustrophobic to intimidating for new climbers. It's time we consider the positive impact the wall has had and could continue to provide the community of Middlebury. We would love to see the wall expand into, say, the new student center, but we also recognize that this addition may not come to fruition very soon. At the very least, we believe our humble wall deserves a retrofit like new paneling, to give our setters the ability to really set on the wall. Additionally, it's key that we gain more funds to pay monitors and expand hours in order to curb the density of climbers during open-hours. With these changes, the wall can live up to its full potential as a place for the community and students to engage, exchange knowledge, socialize, exercise and gain strength.

The climbing club has been trying to channel the passion the Middlebury community has for the sport, but there are many issues with the wall as is. Even with all of the wall's current problems, it's loved — a testament to the enthusiasm for climbing in the campus community. We know that climbing has the ability to create so much positive change. It's time that the college recognizes it as well, so that we can build the space and community that Middlebury climbing deserves.

Let's bring the panthers back toVermont

Op-Ed

Michael Closson *(micloss7@gmail.com) is a member of the class of 1960 and a life-long environmental activist.*

The Jan. 14 issue of The New York Times contains an interesting op-ed entitled: "Cougars Are Heading East. Welcome Them." Its author, Mark Elbroch, describes the gradual return of big American cats (also known as cougars, mountain lions, pumas or panthers) to their former habitats east of the Mississippi River. He refers to research that indicates there are about "a dozen landscapes large enough to sustain cougars indefinitely" in the Eastern U.S.

A map accompanying the article shows that a substantial portion of Vermont could support a self-sustaining population of these magnificent animals. It occurred to me that, since Middlebury College's mascot is a panther, perhaps some of the college's students would like to promote reintroducing panthers to Vermont.

There are several clear benefits of panther reintroduction. Perhaps the most obvious one is that large parts of Northern New England and New York State were once home to panthers. Unfortunately, habitat loss and overhunting led to their eradication. Returning panthers to their former habitat would help reverse the dramatic worldwide trend of wild animal extirpation and extinction. It would also demonstrate that humans and large carnivores can coexist peacefully in some areas.

In his op-ed, Elbroch points out that the recolonization of panthers in the Eastern U.S. would, over time, lead to a substantial reduction of deer-vehicle collisions, averting human fatalities and injuries as well as the financial costs associated with these accidents. In addition, by preying on deer, panthers can help "control chronic wasting disease among deer and other wildlife diseases." Panthers also interact with hundreds of other animal species and help keep a healthy ecosystem.

If and when panthers are home again in Vermont, their presence will not be obvious. They are furtive, seldom-seen animals. In California, I've lived in and near mountain lion habitats for fifty years. During that time, I've done over 100 backpacking trips in the Sierra Nevada mountains and taken hundreds of hikes in the coastal range. Yet, I've never seen a panther, despite encountering many other wild animals, including bears, coyotes and bobcats. However, I'm very sure that panthers have observed me on numerous occasions, particularly at dusk hours when they tend to actively hunt.

Panthers are not particularly dangerous to humans. Elbroch notes that "fewer than two dozen people have been killed by cougars in North America in the past 100 years." Still, caution must be observed when in a lion habitat, especially in terms of protecting small children and dogs.

Don't think that reintroducing big cats to Vermont will be easy. The legitimate concern about the danger they pose will be the foremost objection. This will come not only from parents of small children but also from rural ranchers and small livestock owners. Hence, a public education campaign prior to the panthers' reintroduction will be imperative. In addition, reintroduction will need to start with a small number of panthers in very rural areas where they can live comfortably.

Reintroducing panthers to Vermont will be both an exciting and challenging prospect. I hope that a few Middlebury students will be interested in taking on this challenge. If so, feel free to get in touch.

FREEDOM DREAMING: ENVISIONING AN ANTIRACIST MIDDLEBURY

By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN
Contributing Writer

Courtesy of Todd Balfour

Actors discuss what an antiracist Middlebury would feel like.

"Freedom Dreaming: Envisioning an Antiracist Middlebury," a spoken word performance, was presented by Faculty Director of Equity, Justice & Inclusion Tara Affolter and a group of students with the aim of examining the potential for an antiracist Middlebury on Jan.18. The group's work began in the spring of 2021, when they conducted interviews with students of color about racism on campus, asking the bold question, "What would an anti-racist Middlebury look like?" After transcribing the interviews, staging and rehearsing, the planned fall 2021 performance was canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The group finally performed this past November. This first performance was covered in detail by The Campus, but Jan. 18 marked the group's final performance. There was a Q&A following the performance, as well as an update on what has been accomplished in the months since the initial performance.

During the Q&A, cast members reflected honestly about the time, energy and focus required to put this production on a second time. Raimatou Abdoulaye '23, who was in the audience, picked up on this keenly and acknowledged how important these students' work is, but he also recognized that the promotion of antiracism is falling on the same people that are suffering in the current system. "I'm in awe at the amount of labor that was put into this considering how much labor it takes to simply exist as a person of color on this campus," Abdoulaye said.

At another point in the Q&A, one professor in the audience inquired about how to let BIPOC students know that faculty are trying, even when their efforts fall short. Aakhut Khepra '26, one of the cast members, remarked that there is a balance within the BIPOC community on campus between acknowledging harm but also encouraging people to keep trying. "I like to say both you can grow from this, but also, that was fucked up," Khepra said.

One of the most resounding themes of the performance was the policing of language at Middlebury. Language student and audience member Sylvia Jade Smily '25 reflected specifically on how linguistic discrimination — or the preference of certain forms of speaking, writing and behaving over others, often in academia — must be addressed to make language learning anti-racist. "It is so important that the classroom is not only an inclusive place, understanding that language is variable and subjective, but that we acknowledge the way that [the notion of] 'correctness' in language often reflects who has power in a society," Smily said.

Smily is also a student of art history and museum studies, a field that has historically been pervaded by colonialism and racism. She sees exciting changes in her department, including the plan to hire a tenure track scholar in African and African Diaspora Art. "My field has so much work to do on addressing who gets to tell their story through their art, and I feel like this is one crucial step in the right direction," Smily said.

Other students in the audience remarked on positive trends they have seen on campus. Several seniors in the audience reflected on how much more diverse Middlebury has become since they matriculated almost four years ago. This change brought up complex emotions for Kai Velázquez '23, who was happy to see the increase in diversity but disappointed that the same diversity wasn't present throughout their whole time on campus. "Seeing the classes get more racially and socioeconomically diverse since I've gotten to campus makes me feel joyous but also bittersweet. I wish I had that," Velázquez said.

Another notable change since the first performance was that many more professors attended the second time. As the performance makes clear, anti-racism at Middlebury starts in the classroom and involves teachers being radically open to new pedagogy. Touching stories about how tangible changes in classes were made since the first performance — including one professor diversifying their curriculum mid-semester, and another taking feedback from students of color about problematic rhetoric and taking class time to discuss — added an element of hope and optimism to Freedom Dreaming's approach to change. Associate Professor of Education Jonathan Miller-Lane had concrete takeaways from the program about the importance of keeping interpersonal and systemic levels of racism and justice work in mind. "Freedom Dreaming asked us to keep in mind that the changes we need involve the specific quality of interpersonal relations as well as changes at the systemic level. We need to attend to this range all the time, and we need to do it as human beings sharing an educational space," Miller-Lane said.

Affolter gave promising reports about future work from Freedom Dreaming. She noted the increased attendance by professors, interpreting it as a confirmation of the increasing prospects of this conversation being brought from the theater and into the hands of teachers and educators. "We are ready to keep the work going, by adapting this performance for professors and workshops specifically designed for addressing classroom needs," Affolter said.

During J-term, students are working with a production company to create a video form of Freedom Dreaming to use for this purpose. In the meantime, resources and related events will continue to be posted at go/freedomdreaming/

LONGITUDE

By EDYTH MOLDOW
Staff Writer

textured like snow
like sheets, in a world where no step
is the only rule as
we hurl thousands of pounds of metal up
into
the air—flying

place change
people change
i've changed, this place continues to grow
new
limbs like trees sprout buds
and flowers anchor themselves into
the dirt of a fresh autumn

becoming ghost-like
in the past i'm leaving like lamps
and rugs
i will instead coat myself with minutes
coasting on a new rug in a new room
in a new light, the sprouts
clasping around my neck anew

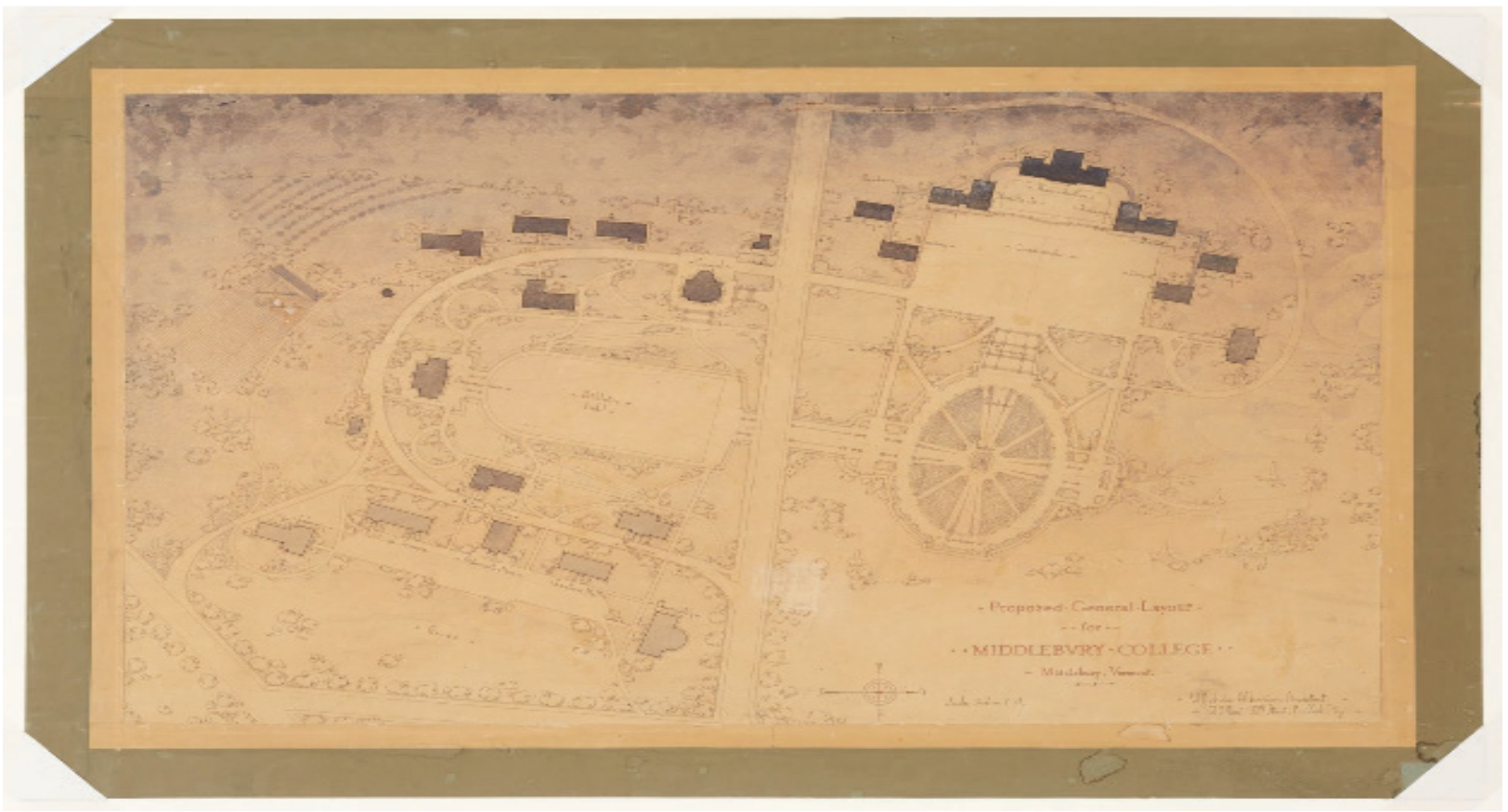
we don't even have to talk about it
but we should
to understand how we've reached this
moment
right here, pin pricked by longitude and
snowy clouds and the promise of holding
long into the night

Courtesy of Edyth Moldow

Edyth Moldow's "Longitude" kicks off an effort by the Arts & Culture section to feature more student art, both in the form of small drawings and different kinds of writing pieces. The Middlebury Arts Department is full of immense talent, and students have very few regular (or at least weekly) opportunities to showcase what they're working on. "Longitude," thus begins what will hopefully be the regular featuring of students' projects in The Campus.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: A GLIMPSE INTO GENDER POLITICS AT MIDDLEBURY IN THE EARLY 1900S

By TULIP LARSON
Arts & Culture Editor



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Photo of the proposed layout for separate men's and women's campuses.

"From the Archives" is an opportunity for various writers to visit the Middlebury Special Collections and write about a different artifact each week. The Special Collections boasts over 10,000 historic items, and through this column we encourage writers to explore not only the college's history, but also the history of the world around us.

As one of the first liberal arts schools to become co-ed in 1883, Middlebury College is often lauded as progressive relative to its counterparts. However, the history of Middlebury's journey toward gender equality proves much more complex than is widely assumed.

This proposed layout for an updated Middlebury campus from 1909 provides a snapshot into the complicated gender politics plaguing Middlebury — illustrating a drastically different college than the one that students know today. This proposal cuts the campus in half, with College Street acting as a barrier between a men's campus to the south and a women's campus to the north. Strikingly different in content, the men's college boasts of an athletic field, academic buildings including chemistry and political science halls, and the only library. The women's campus, on the other hand, comprises just two academic buildings: a domestic science hall and a pedagogy building. The focus of this campus is an ornate, circular garden, directly parallel to the athletic field across the street.

The genesis of this project stemmed from increasing backlash, from both male students and the Board of Trustees, against the increase in female students. The Board of Trustees had been wary of co-education from the start when a misunderstanding led to the college becoming co-ed in the first place. Struggling with record low enrolment in the early 1880s, talk began of allowing women to attend Middlebury on a limited trial basis. However, at a meeting where the Board voted on whether to extend these temporary privileges to women, College President Cyrus Hamlin misheard the vote's results (he was famously deaf) and announced in the college catalog: "By the recent action of the Trustees, the College offers the same privileges to young ladies as to young gentlemen." The Board balked and attempted to rescind this offer of equal privileges, but the change was permanent.

Over the next 20 years, as more women were able to obtain high school diplomas, Middlebury's student body became increasingly female, since it was one of the only nearby options for higher education that was available to women. Already reticent about co-education, when Middlebury admitted more women than men in 1902 (19 and 16 students respectively), Board members became seriously worried about their collegiate status compared to their competitors, like Williams and Dartmouth, who remained male-only. They decided that in order for Middlebury to truly thrive again, women must be removed from the campus. However, unable to roll back their decision to go co-ed, the Board decided to create an annex to Middlebury College, strictly for female students.

New York City-based architect W. Nicholas Albertson was called in to draw up plans that would both create a new women's campus and also strengthen the men's campus, the result being this proposed sketch. Despite Albertson's proposal being approved, construction was halted shortly after it began due to funding issues. However, before money ran out, three buildings were constructed: McCullough Gymnasium and Voter Hall on the men's side, and Pearsons Hall on the women's campus. Still in use today, these buildings provide a lens into the fraught gender politics of the time and offer a glimpse of how different the Middlebury campus could look today, garden and all.

A SNOWLESS J-TERM: HOW STUDENTS HAVE ENTERTAINED THEMSELVES

BY BECCA CLARK
Contributing Writer

COURTESY OF EMMA MCMAHAN
View from the top of the Snow Bowl.

J-Term is typically a time when students enjoy a more relaxed class schedule and a little more free time to enjoy Vermont's winter activities, like skiing. But this January has lacked Vermont's typical snowfall, making many of those activities that students look forward to difficult.

But despite the lack of snow on campus, many students have still been heading to the Snow Bowl and taking advantage of the man-made snow. Mike Hussey, manager of the Snow Bowl, reported that one hundred percent of their snow-making terrain is open and that J-term ski lessons are full.

"The one thing that's always hard for us up at the ski area to translate down to the valley is that it's only brown in town. If people aren't looking at the webcam or checking the snow report they just assume that the skiing is bad, or that there's no snow," Hussey said. "But we've actually enjoyed some very good skiing terrain. The snow conditions and surfaces have been super all winter long, so we've been lucky with that."

Meredith Hespe '23 said that while the skiing has not been the best in principle, she has still enjoyed getting out there, and the company has been great. Gracie Mumford '25 agreed, saying that this ski season has been about adapting, by focusing more on the social aspects of skiing than the snow conditions or terrain. Allie Battista '23.5 said that she has "enjoyed getting in touch with the roots of the icy east coast."

Many students have adapted by branching out and trying new activities. Piper Ackerman '23.5 got creative and made a J-Term bucket list full of activities that don't require snow. She has expanded her winter outdoor activities to include things like biking and hiking as well. Meredith Hespe '23 said that in addition to skiing, she has been enjoying other activities.

"My friends and I have found different ways to entertain ourselves by exploring what Middlebury has to offer other than skiing, like playing squash, rock climbing and playing board games," said Bridget Ulian '23, another avid skier who has been embracing new opportunities this J-Term.

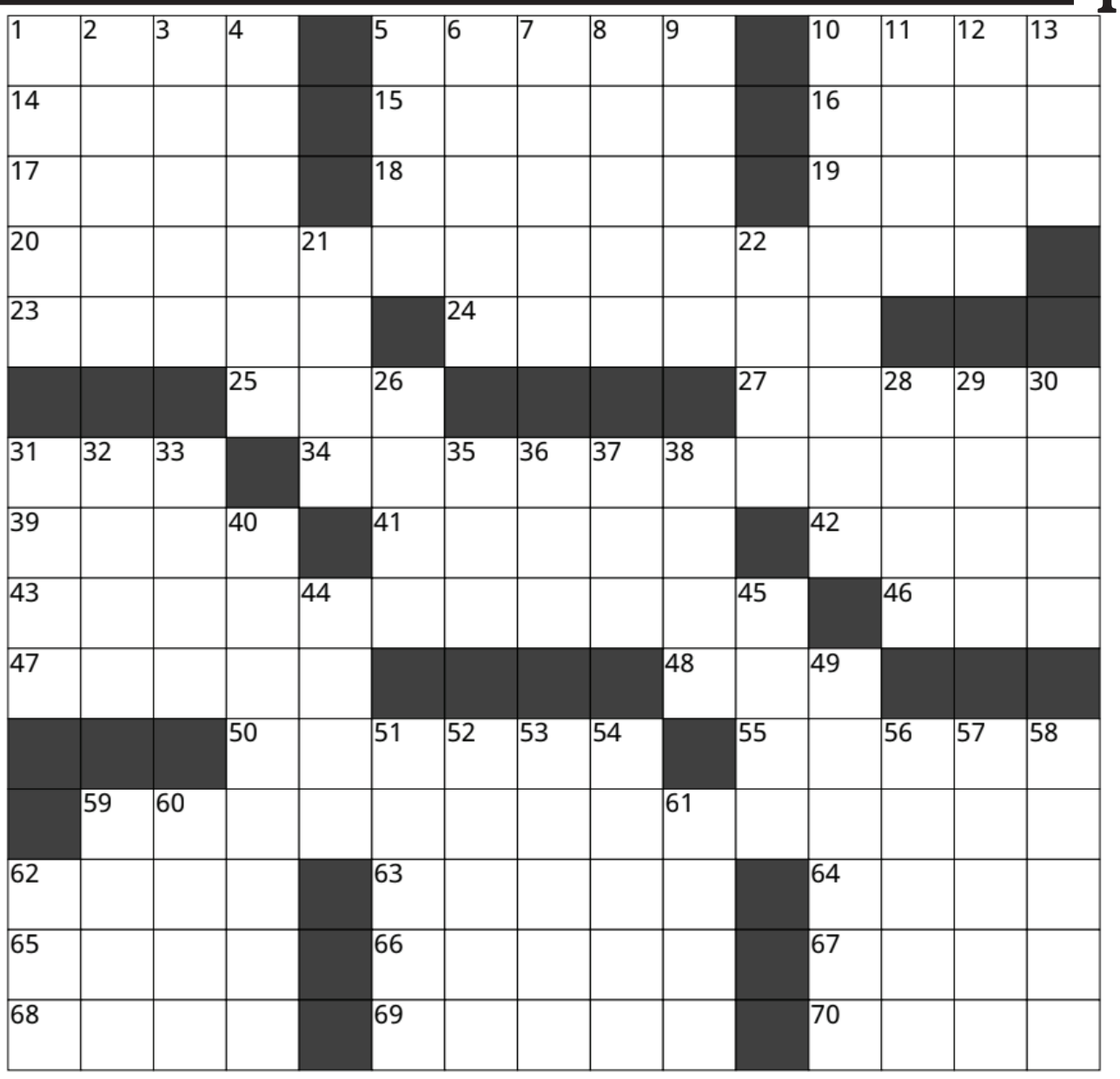
Constance Gooding '23 said that she has been enjoying spending quality time with her friends the most, although she misses how pretty the campus looks covered in snow.

"I've been trying to spend a lot of time outside with friends, taking advantage of the little snow we've had to ski at Rikert or going for runs when I can't make it up there. I've also been spending a lot of time in the architecture studio for my J-Term class which is surprisingly a lot of fun and doesn't really feel like work," Annika Milliman '25.5 said. "I've also been going to Quaker Club and staying busy being a MiddSafe advocate!"

While students have enjoyed taking advantage of the opportunity to explore other activities, the recent snowfall served as a reminder that Middlebury students are as enthusiastic as ever about winter activities. Skiers hit the slopes at the Snow Bowl, Sugarbush and Rikert this weekend with renewed energy, and there is a shared sentiment across campus, among skiers and non-skiers alike, that J-Term feels much better with a little snow on the ground.

CROSSWORD FOR YOU!

By JOSH HARKINS
Contributing Puzzler



ACROSS

1 Like
5 German submarine in WWII
10 U.S. tennis star Roddick
14 Metric preceder
15 Word on a few select diplomas
16 On the less-windy side
17 Jai ___
18 See 31-Across
19 Diagram developer John
20 The Jackson 5 (Henry V 4.3.62)
23 So long, on the Seine
24 One may be tripped by motion
25 Cooling units, abbr.
27 Movie with Frances McDormand's first Oscar-winning performance
31 With 18-Across, where to find the University of Michigan
34 First spaceship to use the Infinite Improbability Drive, per Douglas Adams (Henry V 4.1.46)
39 Hop on another provider's network
41 100,000 BTUs
42 Night author Wiesel
43 Mountaineering Jon Krakauer book (The Tempest 4.1.167)
46 James Harrison and Ray Lewis, for two
47 Classic children's program "Howdy ___"
48 Classic children's game
50 Historical periods
55 Not competent
59 James Bond prequel written by Anthony Horowitz (As You Like it 4.1.152)
62 M*A*S*H star Alan
63 Acrobat developer
64 Informal way of addressing the featured playwright in this week's puzzle
65 Nice night
66 Automaker with S3XY models
67 John Legend's first #1 single "All ___"
68 Hereditary unit
69 Failed Ford automobile line
70 Jerry Seinfeld or Mr. Met, for short

DOWN

1 Addis ___
2 One might come as an appetizer or on the side
3 Someone who speaks Farsi
4 "I haven't the foggiest"
5 Operator of F-35s and B-2s
6 JOB by another name, with "the"
7 Blending of one color with another
8 Radiohead's latest studio album "___ Shaped Pool"
9 After-dinner treats
10 What academic overachievers aim for
11 Nat or Card
12 Hibernation destinations
13 Desire
21 "Ow!"
22 "Danny and the Dinosaur" author Syd
26 Active NBA player with highest career three-point field goal percentage Curry
28 One possible result of taking a turn too quickly
29 Insincere
30 Poetic tributes
31 Quite dry
32 Taboo topic
33 Alliance currently debating Swedish and Finnish membership
35 Redundant kind of tuna
36 Kylo ___
37 "___ La La"
38 Fail to include
40 Supervise, as a debate
44 Kind
45 Attack, often with the element of surprise
49 Ponder
51 Egg-shaped
52 Gave up
53 ___ Perot, third party spoiler in 1992 and 1996
54 Shade of black seen in fur
56 Enlighten
57 ___ d'Or, Cannes award
58 Captain of the U.S. men's national soccer team Adams
59 Chimney passageway
60 One-eyed Norse god
61 Movie producer Moritz
62 Director of Brokeback Mountain Lee

Radio Roundup: Tunes to get you through the rest of J-Term

By WRMC EXEC BOARD

Have your Spotify playlists become stale? Is your weekly mix just not cutting it? Maybe it's time to branch out and listen to something new. The Executive Board of WRMC, Middlebury College's radio station, has selected a wonderfully wide range of albums, spanning time and genre, for your listening pleasure. Check out these recommendations and let them become the soundtrack to your semester.

*RIYL (recommended if you like)

Folk Genre Manager and DJ's Pick: Elle Thompson '25

Album: RMCM by Ricky Mitch and the Coal Miners
RIYL: John Vincent III, Bob Dylan, Gregory Alan Isakov, Oliver Hazard
Blurb: This album is absolutely beautiful. It perfectly captures a feeling of freedom and is an amazing work of modern folk. I think a lot of newer folk music comes off as tacky or over-produced, but this album stands out as unique and authentic. It sounds like hugging a massive pine tree and feeling a cool wind on your face. It feels like a fresh start after heartbreak. The first track, "Evergreen," changed my life, despite it only being a minute and 30 seconds long. Everyone and their dog should listen to this album.

DJ's Pick: Asa Skinder '23

Album: Me / And / Dad by Billy Strings
RIYL: Doc Watson, Tony Rice, The Stanley Brothers, Billy Strings
Blurb: On his new album "Me / And / Dad," Billy Strings revisits a number of bluegrass standards alongside his father, who taught him to play guitar as a child. Backed up by an all-star cast of bluegrass pickers, including Ronnie McCoury and Jerry Douglas, Strings and Barber take turns singing lead on a number of traditional bluegrass tunes. While Strings' prior albums have offered a psychedelic take on the genre, with "Me / And / Dad," he returns to its Appalachian roots

DJ's Pick: Grace Dozeman '25

Album: These are Good People by Little Big League
RIYL: Indie rock, Midwest emo, Big Thief
Blurb: The song "Dark Matter" from the album "These Are Good People" by Little Big League came up on my Spotify "Discover Weekly" playlist a few weeks ago. After listening to it 1,000 times, I decided to listen to the whole album, and I loved it. Their music is a bit like Midwest emo if it were less male-dominated. There's just something about the angst and desperation in lead singer Michelle Zauner's voice! The songs really build so you stay engaged throughout each one. My current favorites off the album are "Dark Matter," "Lindsey" and "Brackish Water."

DJ's Pick: Audrey Grimes '23

Album: Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd
RIYL: If you are swag
Blurb:The first time I listened to this album was a life-changing experience and to this day it holds a special place in my heart. Each song's story is very complex and the melodies are more production for me than therapy.

DJ's Pick: Bridget Ulian '23

Album: Being Funny in a Foreign Language by The 1975
RIYL: Bleachers, anything Antonoff produces, The 1975
Blurb: A lifelong fan doesn't think the band can get any better, and then they release a pretentious album exploring toxic masculinity produced by Jack Antonoff. Unreal.

PIA CONTRERAS

DJ's Pick: Abby Wilkins '23.5

Album: The Loneliest Time by Carly Rae Jepsen
RIYL: Caroline Polachek, Kim Petras, Charli XCX
Blurb: Mereba's mostly self-produced 20I was put onto Carly Rae Jepsen purely by Twitter discourse. I have to admit, growing up in the midst of her supposed one-hit-wonder era, I was not convinced. However, it only took one walk home on a Saturday night to experience the emotionally tumultuous wonder of what she's putting out. There is also an unexpected Rufus Wainwright collaboration on this album, a surprising treat."

DJ's Pick: Livia Cohen '23.5

Album: Naturally by J.J. Cale
RIYL: Eric Clapton, Chet Atkins, The Allman Brothers, Nick Drake
Blurb: Apart from its masterful album art (a raccoon with a top hat and a cane) this album has a blend of blues, rock, jazz and country that is so good that Eric Clapton and Lynyrd Skynrd recorded their own versions of Cale's work. Cale is less well known because he actively avoided fame, but his influence is enduring (Clapton cites Cale. as the person he most admires in the world). Cale was a true rock star, and his first album is a testament to the chill, groovy person he was.

Seven Questions with Charlotte Marks '23.5, field hockey

By RYAN HEINZERLING
Sports Editor

Charlotte Marks '23.5, from Manchester, Mass., is a Senior Feb on the Field Hockey Team. She plays defense and has been named to two NFHCA All Region First Teams and two All-NESCAC Second teams. In this installment of "Seven Questions," Marks discusses how the team prepares for a field hockey game, why she came to Middlebury and her least favorite building on campus.

Ryan Heinzerling: How did you become interested in field hockey?

Charlotte Marks: Field hockey is weird in the sense that most people don't start playing until high school because middle schools don't have it, and town programs don't often exist for young kids. However, I was lucky enough that the players at the high school in my town put on a field hockey clinic for fourth and fifth graders when I was in fourth grade. I really looked up to the high school girls coaching the clinic and was fortunate that my middle school and high school both had great field hockey programs that I was able to join thereafter. I had some amazing coaches in the years that followed who really just grew my love for the game that much more and encouraged me to keep pursuing the sport.

RH: What goes into prepping for a game?

CM: Before every game, not only do we watch film individually but our coaches spend a lot of hours parsing through film, and they prepare a scouting report for us. This includes things like key players, our opponent's offensive and defensive tendencies and how we will adjust our style of play for the type of team we are facing. We focus on being a different team (in terms of strategy — large or small) every time that we play a game, so that we are less predictable to our opponents. We also spend lots of time preparing for offensive and defensive penalty corners which often change depending on the game.

RH: Obviously, a killer year this year, and Midd's won it all every year you've been here. Does each championship feel different and just as exciting as the others?

CM: Every championship has been so different and has definitely been just as exciting every time. Part of that comes from slightly different team dynamics each year as seniors graduate and new first-years arrive, but I think there's also an aspect of "growing up" as a member of the team that makes each year so different — new perspectives, evolving goals, relationship building, etc. Additionally, Coach DeLorenzo is always aiming to grow the game and elevate the level of hockey; this comes with constantly evolving strategies for our team. So, the team we were in 2019 (my first year) and the team we were this past season were incredibly different from a hockey standpoint. Not to mention how our opponents have also evolved and challenge us in different ways each time we play them.

RH: Why Middlebury?

CM: I've always loved the mountains and exploring, and I sensed that the people I would meet at Midd would share some of my same interests. Middlebury had everything I was looking for: a smaller student body, programs in the sciences that interested me, access to skiing, great field hockey and amazing coaches.

RH: Least favorite building on campus?

CM: The Freeman International Center (super weird building).

RH: Favorite memory of field hockey thus far?

CM: There are so many, but one that comes to mind is practicing in a snowstorm the night before leaving for NCAAs last year. The practice was all business as usual until the snow started accumulating on the field to the point where the ball was more like a snowball. People started slipping here and there and it eventually turned into all of us making snow angels and dancing on the field under the lights while the snow fell.

RH: Who do you look up to most in the sport?

CM: I honestly can't think of one specific person, but I enjoy watching the national team play and there have always been older players on the teams I've been on that I have looked up to and learned so much from over thee years.

HOME RECAP: HOW DID THE PANTHERS DO THIS WEEKEND?

By OWEN PARK
Sports Editor

J-Term may be winding down, but the winter sports season is picking up steam. With the NESCAC playoffs in sight, every team is pushing in the hopes of maximizing their fortunes in February. Given that the majority of teams boast a winning record, the remainder of the season promises to be an exciting spectacle for fans. If you were unable to watch the Panthers in action at home, here is a brief recap of their matches:

Women's Track and Field (1–0):
Women's track and field continued the staggering individual performances throughout the Middlebury Classic. The Panthers swept the top four spots in the 400m with Eva Kaiden '23 claiming first place, Mary Elliot '26 claiming second, Annabel Cloney '26 coming in third and Cate Kreutzen '26 finishing in fourth place. Cady Barnes '23 made history and delivered a dominant performance in the triple jump by placing first and setting a school record at 11.55m. Freshman Emily Rubio '26 began her career as a Panther with a bang by breaking the school record for the pentathlon with 3440 points and placing first in the five events. The Panthers finished strong by rounding out the meet with a crown in the 4x400m thanks to Lily Bulczynski '26, Elliot, Ciara Dale '24 and Michelle Louie '24. The Panthers look to continue their successes on Sunday as they head to Boston for the New England Small College Invite.

Men's Track and Field (1–0):
Men's track and field continued to build on their dominant performance from last week as they hosted the Middlebury Classic this weekend. Continuing his march through the history books, Marco Motroni '25 broke the school record in the 60m dash at 6.95 seconds. This marks the second time this season that Motroni has made this accomplishment, having previously broken the record during last week's Snowflake Special with 7.00 seconds. Other impressive standout performances included Quinn Kennedy '26 claiming first place in the heptathlon with victories in the 60m dash, 60m hurdles, 1000m and shot put. Peter Hansen '23 came first in the 500m while Zander Kessler '23 came first in the 800m. The Panthers look to continue their successes on Sunday as they travel to Boston for the New England Small College Invitational.

Women's Swimming and Diving (4–4):
Saturday saw dominant performances as well as shortcomings for women's swimming and diving as they hosted Hamilton and Williams. Despite its official status as Senior Week, a corps of underclassmen buoyed the Panthers in races. Leading the charge was Maddy Reid '25 who won the 50m and 100m back events, the Panthers' only first place finishes. Other events saw the Panthers falling just short of the top, such as in the 500m free with Avery Maxwell '25 snaring a second place finish and Chloe Katz '25 grabbing third. Despite this, the potential of the team's new recruits shone through as Hannah Baumgartner '26 placed second in the 200m freestyle, Elsie Scott '26 came in second in the 100m butterfly and Emma Hall '26 also finished second in the 100m breaststroke. The Panthers will look to make a strong statement as they host the Middlebury Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

Men's Swimming and Diving (4–4):
This past Saturday saw a well fought match for men's swimming and diving who hosted Hamilton and Williams. Despite finishing in second place, the team's future looked bright as the underclassmen captured the spotlight. Samuel Hughes '25 finished first in the 100m backstroke, being only one of two Panthers to win a race. Tightly contested matches were the namesake of the rest of the meet: Matthew Hensel '25 came in second place in the 100m breaststroke by less than three-tenths of a second, and Hughes barely missed the 50m freestyle crown by a tenth of a second. First year Luke McNamara '26 and Andrew Dou '26 made waves in their budding careers as Panthers by finishing third in the 1000m freestyle and 100m butterfly respectively. The Panthers hope to make a strong statement as they host the Middlebury Invitational this upcoming Friday and Saturday.

Women's Basketball (11–7):
Coming off of an impressive series of wins to start the year, women's basketball suffered a 56–50 loss to Williams on Saturday. The game was a grind for the home team from the start as the Ephs shot out to an early lead and held the Panthers to a six point deficit heading into the half. The Panthers rebounded somewhat with efforts from Alexa Mustafaj '25 who capped off a 5–0 run with a three pointer to bring the Panthers within a score. Augusta Dixon '25 and Gabby Stuart '26 capitalized on these efforts as they led a scoring run that put the Panthers up 48–45 towards the end of the game. However, with the Ephs sinking a three pointer, the game went into overtime, and the Ephs regained control of the game to silence the Panthers. Still boasting a winning record of 11–7, women's basketball will be looking to assert themselves as top dogs of the NESCAC conference as they travel to Lewiston on Friday to play Bates.

Women's Ice Hockey (10–4–1):
Women's ice hockey continues to show why they are the NESCAC elite following a 3–1 win over Bowdoin on Saturday. In addition to a 4–2 win on Friday, Saturday's victory secured another notch on the Panthers' now four-year winning streak over Bowdoin. The match conveyed the tenacity and hard work of the team even as they faced an improved and hungry Polar Bears squad. The Panthers came out swinging with Caroline Cutter '23 firing a shot that the opposing goalie saved by a lucky swipe in the first period. Cutter's aggressiveness later paid off as she capitalized on a rebound to put the Panthers up 1–0 towards the end of the second period. Though Bowdoin would soon tie the game, the Panthers would eventually take the lead for good. The crucial moment came towards the end of the period when Jordan Hower '25 intercepted a failed clearance from the visiting team and found Ashley McDonald '23 behind the net. From there, a quick pass to Britt Nawrocki '26 exposed the Polar Bear's defense as she shot the puck in the net. Cutter put the nail in the coffin towards the end of the third quarter with another goal, sending the Polar Bears packing. The Panthers will look to continue their dominance over the NESCAC conference as they travel to New London for two games against Connecticut College on Friday and Saturday.

Women's Squash (10–3):
Women's squash saw marginally better fortunes on Saturday as they hosted Tufts to lose 1–8. The lone bright spot on the team that day came from Maya Bardorf '24 who won the Panthers' sole match that day. Bardorf remains perfect on the season with a nine-game winning streak across all matches. With a decisive winning record at 10–3 and a 6–2 record to start the year, the Panthers remain a threat as they prepare for the NESCAC Championships with a home match against Amherst on Tuesday.

Men's Squash (8–5):
Saturday was not ideal for men's squash as they hosted Tufts and lost 0–9. Despite boasting a winning record, this match only serves to put a question mark next to the Panthers' season heading into the NESCAC Championships. This match marks the Panthers' fifth loss out of eight games since the start of the year with one game left to correct the course of their season. The Panthers will look to rebound to form as they host Amherst on Tuesday.